

# Newsletter On Nutrition

SEPTEMBER, 1977

4213 DIRKSEN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

## KANSAS FIELD HEARINGS

Program recipients, county officials, state program directors and other interested persons testified on ten of the federally supported food assistance programs operating in Kansas -- the Food Stamp Program, Child Care Food Program, Summer Foodservice Programs for Children, Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Head Start, and Title VII Nutrition Program for the Elderly.

Each year the federal government spends billions of dollars on food and nutrition programs. Information gathered at the hearings will be used in formulating legislative changes to make the programs more responsive to the needs of recipients. Concerns most often mentioned included: too much red tape and paperwork; lack of knowledge about the programs by those most in need of assistance; and limited funding.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Earlier this summer, both Houses of Congress passed legislation to revise and extend child nutrition programs administered under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act. The Senate version contains many beneficial provisions designed to improve program administration, meal quality, and nutritional benefits and regulate competitive food sales, nutrition education for students and teachers, and training for school cafeteria personnel -- as well as funds for nutrition education. I am hopeful these Senate provisions will be retained by the Conference Committee when it meets in September to resolve differences between the two bills.

I have co-sponsored a bill introduced by Senator McGovern which would allow nutrition counseling provided under the supervision of a registered dietician as a reimbursable Medicare home health service. If enacted, this bill would be a major step toward meeting the needs for nutritional counseling in home health services and encourage nutritional counseling as a preventative health care measure. The bill is currently pending in the Finance Committee.

The 1977 Food and Agriculture Act -- which is expected to be signed into law early in September -- directs the Secretary of Agriculture to expand food and nutrition education programs to reach the greatest possible number of food stamp program participants. It will also be supplemented by development of printed materials designed for persons with low reading and comprehension levels on how to buy and prepare more nutritious and economical meals.

I have recently spoken to a number of food and nutrition groups and thought you might be interested in the following excerpts from some of those speeches:

There is beginning to be a shift in public perception and public policy -- a shift away from ever-spiraling expenditures for curative health measures towards a more modest but important investment in prevention with sound nutritional practices being the cornerstone of that program of prevention.

American Dietetic Association  
March, 1977

Without trying to directly regulate the eating habits of the American people, there is more that the federal government can, and should begin, to do to return America to a more prudent, and therefore healthier, diet: producers and processors can be encouraged to include health considerations in their growing pricing and marketing policies. And if the consumer is given the information he or she needs to make a wise diet decision, food producers and processors will follow.

Institute of Food Technologists  
June, 1977

### NEWSLETTER ON NUTRITION

During August, I chaired Field Hearings sponsored by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition in Parsons, Horton (the Kickapoo Indian Reservation), Salina, Wichita, Colby and Garden City. Program recipients, county officials, state program directors and other interested persons testified on ten of the federally supported food assistance programs operating in Kansas -- the Food Stamp Program, Child Care Food Program, Summer Foodservice Programs for Children, Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Head Start, and Title VII Nutrition Program for the Elderly.

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Nutrition educators can and should participate, not just in the preparation of legislation by testifying at committee hearings and tracing the progress of legislation -- but should also monitor how the program is being administered by executive agencies at the federal and state level and by the Nutrition Service of the USDA.

Society for Nutrition Education  
July, 1977

I am convinced that agriculture and nutrition must be brought into closer coordination. While there has been a farm policy since the beginning of this country, the institution of a national food policy has been late in coming. But now, as more and more Americans become aware of the link between what they eat and how healthy they are, nutrition is likely to be the central consideration in all our food policies. As the food buying habits of the American people change, the production habits of the American farmer will change -- as surely as night follows day.

Conference on "Nutrition and the American  
Food System"  
July, 1977

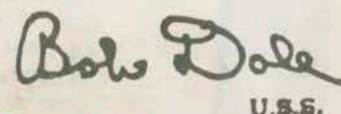
I trust you will continue to contact me with your opinions or suggestions on legislation. Please do not hesitate to let me know whenever we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

  
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